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LETTER DATED 30 APRIL 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LATVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the note verbale that the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat, the Permanent Missions and Observer Offices of the United Nations on 28 April 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Latvia to
United Nations

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Annex

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, the Permanent Missions and Observer Offices to the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations would like to alert the United Nations Secretariat, the Permanent Missions and Observer Offices of the United Nations of the following matter. On 27 April 1992 the Latvian Ministry of Defense submitted to the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs a document outlining the present situation regarding the Libyan submarine under construction in Bolderaja, Latvia. A translation of the text of this document follows.

> *'A submarine intended for Libya has been under construction in Boldaraja at the 177th ship reconstruction factory of the Baltic Sea naval fleet of the former USSR since 1988.*
>
> *It is an antiquated type of submarine that is practically no longer utilized by the naval forces of Russia.*
>
> *In March of 1990, this submarine was docked. Dock work is being undertaken by workers from the 29th ship reconstruction factory located in Liepaja, who are transported to Boldaraja by bus. The work is supervised by a Libyan naval forces reconstruction brigade, composed of 9 officers, and 17 specialists, who have arrived in Bolderaja with their families.*
>
> *The reconstruction of this submarine has been delayed due to lack of materials as well as due to the low quality of the workmanship and as a result the highly qualified Libyan chief mechanic demands that unsatisfactory work be redone. In addition, the Russian naval reconstruction factories required that the cleaning of the hull be done by the crew of the ship, yet the Libya brigade refuses to fulfill this task, argumenting that the renovation of the entire vessel has been paid for.*
>
> *It is possible that the renovation of the submarine will not be completed this year. We have information that the commander of the submarine returned to Libya approximately 4 weeks ago due to the illness of his wife.'*

The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a verbal note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 22 April 1992, asking for an explanation of this situation. As of today, 28 April 1992 no reply has been received.

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The Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations would like to emphasize that the presence of the Libyan submarine and Libyan military personnel in the territory of the Republic of Latvia serves an example of the unsatisfactory nature of the continued presence of the Russian armed forces stationed in Latvia and therefore asks the United Nations to use its international influence and leverage to urge the government of the Russian Federation to hasten the withdrawal of its armed forces from the territory of the Republic of Latvia and to offer a timetable for such a withdrawal.

The presence of this Libyan submarine underlines a broader problem in Latvia, namely that despite Latvia's establishment of its independence, former Soviet troops and military facilities have not been withdrawn from Latvia. It is estimated that there about 30,000-50,000 ex-Soviet troops in Latvia. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has agreed that these troops must leave, but Russia is unwilling to agree on a timetable with the Latvian government. Recent proposals from Moscow suggest a 5-year withdrawal period. It took only three months to remove 100,000 troops from Afghanistan. Therefore, the Latvian government does not accept the 5-year proposal.

As it is confirmed that there is a Russian submarine intended for Libya in Latvia, it would suggest the possibility that there may be other Russian military equipment in bases throughout Latvia and the Baltics intended for sale to Libya. Such a situation would be in violation of Resolution 748 (1992) adopted by the Security Council at its 3063rd meeting on 31 March 1992. Since the Latvian government has not been permitted to inspect any of the Russian-controlled military bases and facilities in Latvia, we are hereby requesting that the United Nations send a fact-finding team to Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania to inspect the Russian-controlled installations.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Secretariat, the Permanent Missions and Observer Offices to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 28 April 1992